the period 1986-88 is attached. (*See* Appendix CL Annexure No. 65] The lockouts have mainly been due to reasons such as indiscipline and violence demands relating to wages & allowances and bonus financial stringency and shortage of raw material.

(c) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to resolve disputes and reduce work stoppages through preventive mediation conciliation and arbitration. Banks and Financial Institutions are also offering assistance under various Rehabilitation Schemes to units affected by sickness.

Payment of Provident Fund Arrears

1352. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had signed an agreement with the owners of the industrial units regarding repayment of provident fund arrears ; and

(b) if so, how far this agreement has been honoured by the owners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) Yes Sir. An agreement was reached with the managements of certain jute mills in June 1986 for payment of arrears of the E.P.F. dues.

(b) It was found that some of the mills had violated the agreement and continued to commit fresh defaults and only a small amount was realised from them over a period of more than one year. The agreement has therefore been rescinded.

Agency System and Agents for sponsoring Commercial features Films and Serials

1353. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has established an agency system, and through the agents, sponsors of commercial serials, the feature films, and other outside produced programmes are contracted or finalised;

(b) whether middle agencies have come up between direct producers and Doodarshan; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether tele timing are contracted with agents in advance; and

(d) what were the rates fixed for one instalment of Ramayan and Mahabharat and whether sponsors are given time separately for their items of Advertising ; if so, what are those rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. TEWARY): (a) Acceptance of advertisements and sponsorship of programmes for telecast on Doorarshan is hanlded by Doordarshan mainly through agencies registered or accredited with Doordarshan Commercial Service. The advertisers can book advertisements directly also with Doordarshan.

Sponsorship of feature films, imported programmes and all Doordarshan programmes is allocated to the advertisers through advertising agencies on the basis of requisitions received in advance.